



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

NEWS RELEASE

Office of the Attorney General at
P.O. Box 20207 Nashville, TN 37202-0207

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CONTACT:

Sharon Curtis-Flair

(615) 741-5860

**Tennessee Attorney General receives National Consumer Advocate Award for
Bridgestone/Firestone Investigation and \$51.5 Million Settlement**

Tennessee Attorney General Paul G. Summers was today awarded the 2003 Consumer Advocate Award by the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators (NACAA) for his leadership in the Bridgestone/Firestone tire recall case.

The NACAA award honors those who “best enhance and promote consumer interests and fairness in the marketplace,” officials noted during the presentation held in Washington, D.C.

Attorney General Summers was nominated by the Georgia Governor’s Office of Consumer Affairs, cited for “exemplifying the very best in promoting consumer interests and fairness in the marketplace” for his work in the multistate tire recall case.

Tennessee and 52 other jurisdictions announced its finalized \$51.5 million nationwide settlement on Nov. 8, 2001. The settlement regarded some allegedly defective tires and misrepresentations made during the tire replacement process and in the promotion of the allegedly defective tires.

John Smith, the Administrator of the Georgia Governor’s Office of Consumer Affairs, who nominated Attorney General Summers for the prestigious award, said many states would have been left out of the settlement “if it were not for General Summers’ guidance and leadership.”

“General Summers showed extraordinary dedication to making the multi-state effort a

successful one,” said. “The most commendable aspect of General Summers’ handling of the investigation was his single-mindedness in insuring that decisions concerning the investigation were made jointly with the six other states of the Executive Committee.”

The Georgia official stressed Summers’ “diligence assured that all Executive Committee members were as informed and up-to-date as he was,” and resulted in a cohesive group because of his efforts. Smiths said the success of the group was because Summers generously dedicated his office resources, including six attorneys and numerous staff members and equipment.

NACAA was established in 1976 “to ensure an honest, safe and informed marketplace and to promote consumer and business responsibility in a competitive economy,” according to NACAA’s mission statement. Its members help formulate, modify and enforce consumers laws, regulations and policies.